

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

AT THE

NACA/NASA 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

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ADMINISTRATOR

THANK YOU, JOHN (SWIHART), AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO MARTIN HARWIT FOR HOSTING THIS MARVELOUS EVENT. AND TO EACH OF YOU WHO PRECEDED ME, WITH YOUR TALES OF 75 YEARS OF NACA AND NASA ACHIEVEMENTS, YOU HAVE ENRICHED OUR EVENING. CERTAINLY, THIS IS THE PLACE TO BE IN WASHINGTON TONIGHT. WE'RE CELEBRATING WHAT AMERICA IS ALL ABOUT.

FROM THE SANDS OF KITTY HAWK TO THE DESERTS OF THE MOON. FROM ROBERT GODDARD'S 4-SECOND ROCKET FLIGHT TO PIONEER'S AND VOYAGER'S PASSAGE BEYOND THE PLANETS. WHAT A MARVELOUS TIME TO LIVE FOR ALL OF US WHO HAVE PLAYED A SMALL PART.

HOW, AGAINST A LONG HUMAN HISTORY, COULD THESE GREAT EVENTS HAPPEN SO QUICKLY?

AND WHY HERE, IN AMERICA? WHY DID THE HUMAN RACE FIRST FLY HERE? WHY WERE AMERICANS THE FIRST TO WALK ON ANOTHER BODY IN SPACE? WHY IS TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT MEASURED AGAINST AMERICAN STANDARDS?

I THINK TWO FACTORS HAVE DISTINGUISHED AMERICA FROM THE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. EVERYONE STUDIES THEM WHEN YOUNG, BUT THE KNOWLEDGE FADES DURING BUSY WORKING LIVES.

FIRST, AMERICA WAS -- AND IS -- THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY. FROM THE BEGINNING, IT HAS OPENED ITS GATES TO ALL PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION, AND ORIGIN. TODAY, THE DOOR REMAINS OPEN, AND THEY STILL COME. THEY BRING WITH THEM THEIR SKILLS, THEIR HOPES, THEIR WILLINGNESS AND DETERMINATION.

IN THEIR MOST IMPORTANT INITIAL ACT, AMERICA'S FOREFATHERS DECLARED THAT ALL THE PEOPLE WERE CREATED EQUAL AND WERE ENTITLED TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. WE HAVE BUILT A SOCIETY TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS.

AND THEN, AMERICA'S EMPHASIS ON FREEDOM -- FREEDOM OF RELIGION, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, FREEDOM TO CHOOSE THE GOVERNMENT, FREEDOM TO MAKE ECONOMIC DECISIONS, AND FREEDOM TO SET YOUR OWN GOALS AND PURSUE YOUR OWN LIFE. FREEDOM TO REACH FOR THE STARS!

THIS HAS BEEN A CLIMATE IN WHICH THE NEW IDEAS AND NEW CAPABILITIES COULD FLOURISH. AND FLOURISH THEY DID, AND THEY FLOURISHED MOST IN THIS WONDERFUL FIELD OF ACTIVITY THAT FILLS THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM -- FLIGHT.

TONIGHT WE CELEBRATE OUR FLIGHT HERITAGE -- 75 YEARS OF ASTOUNDING ACHIEVEMENTS -- MADE POSSIBLE BY THIS COUNTRY'S COMMITMENT TO THOSE PRINCIPLES AND BY THE DEDICATION AND TALENT OF SO MANY.

AND ... YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET. THE FUTURE HOLDS MORE OPPORTUNITIES THAN WE CAN BEGIN TO IMAGINE. BUT LOOKING IN A REAR VIEW MIRROR AT THESE 75 YEARS TEMPTS ME TO INSTEAD GLANCE AT MY CRYSTAL BALL. I PREDICT THAT NEW AERONAUTICS AND SPACE RESEARCH WILL POLISH IT BRIGHT.

IN AVIATION, BECAUSE OF ITS IMPORTANCE TO OUR ECONOMY, TRANSPORTATION, AND DEFENSE, RENEWED AMERICAN LEADERSHIP ...

- A SAFE, HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE CIVIL AIR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, WITH NEW AIRCRAFT TYPES SUCH AS HIGH-SPEED TRANSPORTS AND TILTROTORS, BOTH ECONOMICAL AND ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE.

- HIGH PERFORMANCE MILITARY AIRCRAFT WITH UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS OF AGILITY AND SURVIVABILITY.

- TRANSATMOSPHERIC AND HYPERSONIC VEHICLES WHICH PROVIDE QUICK ACCESS TO SPACE AS WELL AS CHALLENGE OUR TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES.

IN SPACE, A BOLD NATIONAL PROGRAM ... WHICH EXPANDS HUMAN KNOWLEDGE OF AND PRESENCE IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM AND THE UNIVERSE.

- "MISSION TO PLANET EARTH" TO UNDERSTAND GLOBAL CHANGE ON THIS PRECIOUS EARTH SO WE CAN ASSURE A SAFE, HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

- A CONTINUING, ROBUST SPACE SCIENCE PROGRAM WHICH EXPANDS OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNIVERSE AROUND US ...

- AND A NEW EXPLORATION TO TAKE OUR ROBOTS, OUR MEN AND OUR WOMEN, BACK TO THE MOON, THIS TIME TO STAY, AND THEN ON TO MARS.

WE ALL KNOW -- AND PRESIDENT BUSH HAS SAID -- THAT IT IS TIME TO EXPAND THE HUMAN RACE OFF THE PLANET. IT IS TIME TO GO TO OTHER PLACES, AND TO FORCE THE BREAKTHROUGHS THAT AWAIT US IN MEDICINE, IN ENERGY, IN MATERIALS; AND TO GAIN THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR BEGINNINGS, OF OUR ROLE IN THE UNIVERSE, AND OF OUR FUTURE.

I'VE SAT AT THE NATIONAL SPACE COUNCIL TABLE WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT AND OTHERS HERE TONIGHT AS WE HAVE FORGED SPACE POLICY.

THERE ARE COMPELLING ARGUMENTS FOR AMERICAN PURSUIT OF GRAND VISIONS AT THIS VERY TIME. ACCEPTING CHALLENGES CAN DRIVE OUR SUCCESSES, WITH THE BENEFITS COMING DIRECTLY HOME TO US IN AMERICA.

YEARS AGO SOMEONE INVENTED THE PHRASE "THE AMERICAN DREAM." EVERYONE KNEW WHAT IT MEANT. IT MEANT THAT AMERICA WAS A GREAT PLACE, AND PEOPLE COULD LEAD WORTHWHILE LIVES HERE.

TEN YEARS AGO AN OLD FLYING BUDDY OF MINE, JOHN YOUNG, CLIMBED OUT OF STS-1 AND DECLARED THAT THE DREAM WAS STILL ALIVE.

I AM HERE TO TELL YOU TONIGHT THAT JOHN WAS RIGHT ... IT IS STILL ALIVE. I AM ALSO HERE TO REMIND YOU THAT IN PREVIOUS TOUGH TIMES CERTAIN PEOPLE GUIDED THAT DREAM THROUGH THE MINE FIELDS AND PITFALLS. TODAY, WE ARE THOSE PEOPLE AND WE HAVE THE SAME TASK.

I HAVE NO DOUBTS ABOUT THE HISTORY WE CELEBRATE TONIGHT REPEATING ITSELF.

OUR INDUSTRY NEEDS THE TECHNOLOGY, OUR WORLD NEEDS THE NEW KNOWLEDGE, OUR CHILDREN NEED THE MOTIVATION, AND OUR NATION NEEDS THE SENSE OF PURPOSE. IT IS GOING TO HAPPEN; AMERICANS ARE DETERMINED TO BE PART OF IT. AND I JUST CAN'T WAIT.

WELL, TONIGHT, IF NASA HAD A MEDAL FOR ENDURANCE, YOU'D ALL BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE IT AFTER HAVING LISTENED TO 16 SPEAKERS. NO MORE WORDS. YOU'RE IN FOR A TREAT ... WE'RE GOING TO CONCLUDE THE FORMAL PART OF OUR OBSERVANCE NOW WITH SOME PICTURES AND MUSIC THAT SPAN THE LAST 75 YEARS OF NACA AND NASA. THANKS FOR COMING, AND ENJOY THE REST OF THE EVENING.